MSRI Spring 2020 semester on **Quantum Symmetries**: summary

April 9, 2017

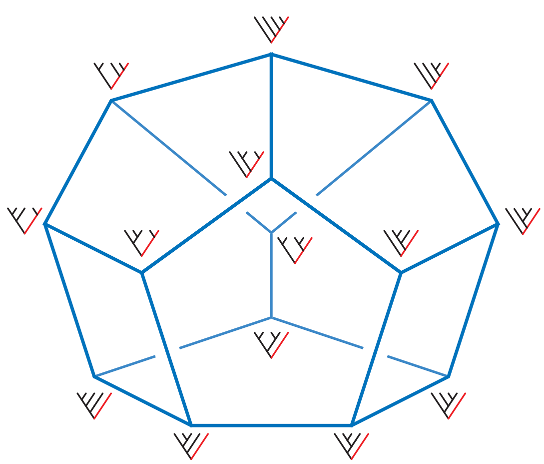
Symmetry, as formalized by group theory, is ubiquitous across mathematics and science. Classical examples include point groups in crystallography, Noether's theorem relating differentiable symmetries and conserved quantities, and the classification of fundamental particles according to irreducible representations of the Poincaré group and the internal symmetry groups of the standard model. However, in some quantum settings, the notion of a group is no longer enough to capture all symmetries. Important motivating examples include Galois-like symmetries of von Neumann algebras, anyonic particles in condensed matter physics, and deformations of universal enveloping algebras. The language of tensor categories provides a unified framework to discuss these notions of quantum symmetry.

Within the framework of studying the various guises of quantum symmetries, and their interactions, we will focus on following seven areas.

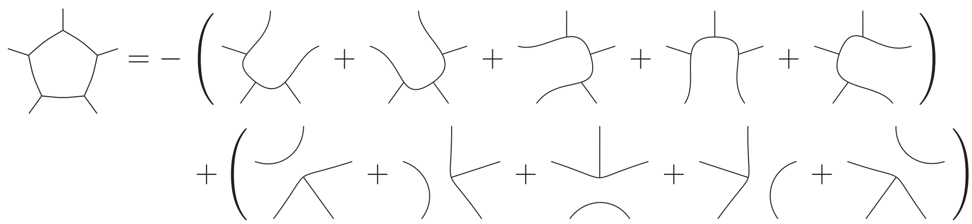
1. Tensor categories, fusion categories, module categories, and applications to representation theory.
2. Braided, symmetric, and modular tensor categories.
3. Hopf algebras, their actions on rings, and classification of semisimple and of pointed Hopf algebras.
4. Subfactors, planar algebras, and analytic properties of quantum symmetries.
5. Quantum invariants of knots and 3-manifolds, and local topological field theories.
6. Conformal nets, vertex algebras, and their representation theories.
7. Topological order and topological quantum computation.

Potential graphics to use alongside the one-page summary:

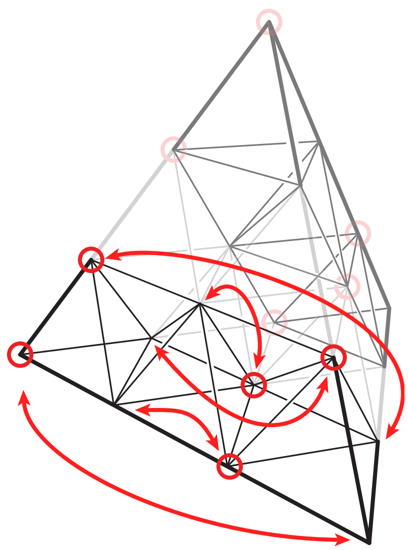
- An associahedron:



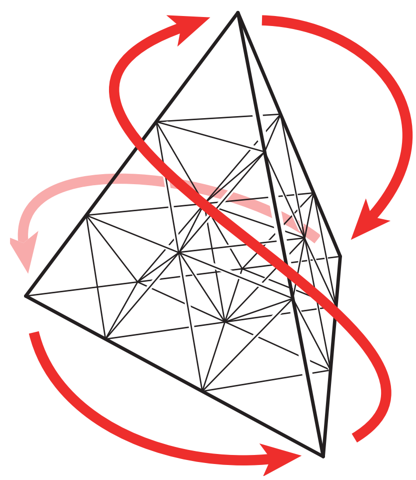
- An equation from the skein theory of quantum G_2:



- A diagram showing modularisation of a quantum group at a root of unity:



or



We'd love to find an appropriate graphic illustrating string diagrams for a tensor category (possibly suggesting a Levin-Wen string net model), but haven't found anything.